

THE EVENING STAR

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Soviet Reported Busy Bolstering Cuban Defenses

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (AP).

—The New York Times news service said today Soviet forces in Cuba are reported working around the clock building and improving "highly sophisticated ground and air defenses."

A Washington-dated dispatch by Tad Szulc said private reports from Havana, confirmed in part by American experts on the Cuban situation, relate that large shipments of weapons and other materials are continuing to arrive in Cuba.

The story added:

Soviet encampments are being relocated and strengthened, and Soviet experts are directing Cubans in the construction of underground depots, hangars and runways.

Soviet troops exclusively are doing the work and some sites are closed even to Cuban military personnel, the report said.

So far as can be determined the military equipment being brought into Cuba and the work being done fit the classification of "defensive weapons."